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Programme element II.c

Matters left pending and other issues arising from the programme elements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests process

Transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management

Note by the Secretariat

I. Mandate

1. At its first session, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) emphasized the need to build on the positive results achieved by the former Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), and to consider matters left pending and matters arising from the programme elements discussed during the IPF process. The Forum defined programme element II.c as follows:

> "*Consider matters left pending on the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to support sustainable forest management.* Examine ways of promoting, facilitating and financing access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how to developing countries on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account chapter 34 of Agenda 21[a] and paragraph 11 of the Forest Principles,[b] and examine appropriate mechanisms to effect such access and transfer; consider technologies and technical

[a] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[b] Ibid., annex III.

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knowledge, including extension services for local sustainable management, as well as enhanced technology development, transfer and application to improve the utilization of wood and non-wood forest products and services, with special attention to wood as an energy source and to the role of women" (see E/CN.17/IFF/1997/4, para. 7, category II (c)).

II. Background

2. The Forum substantively discussed programme element II.c at its second session. The present note has been prepared with the intention of providing the basis for the update discussion of the topic at the Forum's third session.

3. The report of the Secretary-General on programme element II.c (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/4) was the basis for the substantive discussion that took place at the Forum's second session.

4. The outcome of that discussion, as contained in the report of the second session (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. II.c), touches on a full range of issues relevant to the transfer of technology in support of sustainable forest management. The preliminary conclusions contain such topics as:

(a) The role of public and private sectors in the development and diffusion of technologies, and the importance of enabling policy, legal and institutional frameworks;

(b) National forest programmes as a vehicle for development, adaptation and use of technologies through participatory approaches;

(c) Assessing technologies for environmental soundness, economic sustainability and social impacts;

(d) North-South and South-South partnerships in the transfer of technologies in support of sustainable forest management;

(e) Financing of technology transfer and accompanying know-how and capacity-building through official development assistance; multilateral technical assistance, public and private partnerships, joint ventures and foreign direct investments;

(f) Transfer of indigenous technologies and know-how and technologies relevant for forest biological resources;

(g) Diffusion of forest-related technologies through extension services;

(h) Transfer, access, and use of wood energy technologies and related gender issues (for suggestions related to fuelwood, see also E/CN.17/IFF/1999/14).

5. The preliminary proposals contain suggestions for:

(a) The establishment of a technology transfer mechanism;

(b) Enabling policy, legal and institutional frameworks that encourage investments in technologies for sustainable forest management in line with national forest programmes;

(c) Establishment and/or strengthening of cooperation among institutions, clearing houses and other mechanisms for the facilitation of assessment of needs for and transfer, adaptation and use of forest-related environmentally sound technologies;

(d) Accompanying transfer of technologies with human and institutional capacity-building as an integral part of investment and development;

(e) Practical measures to promote diffusion of technologies to end-users;

(f) Improving coordination and cooperation among countries and international organizations for forest-related technical assistance;

(g) Assisting low forest cover countries in building capacities that would facilitate the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies required for their particular needs;

(h) Sharing of the results and benefits of research conducted on forest biodiversity originating in developing countries, while duly recognizing the source of forest biological resources in patent applications;

(i) Measures to enable indigenous people, local communities and forest-dependent groups to realize potential benefits of their traditional forest-related knowledge through the establishment and enforcement of intellectual property rights linked to such knowledge;

(j) Transfer and development of modern, appropriate and environmentally sound wood-based energy technologies to make efficient use of wood and wood waste generated by logging and wood processing;

(k) Analysing the implications of increased use of wood and wood processing waste and by-products as an energy source, by households and industry, at the local and national levels;

(l) Ensuring equal opportunities for women, particularly indigenous women and women in rural areas, to benefit from forest-related technologies, know-how, education, training, microcredit and extension services related to the use of wood as an energy source, woodlots for fuelwood and energy-efficient cooking technology;

(m) Using data and information disaggregated by gender in forest-related sectoral surveys and studies used in the development of policies and projects.

6. The substantive discussion of programme element II.c at the Forum's second session did not lead to a consensus on several of the above issues. The Forum may therefore wish to revisit this programme element and seek to resolve those paragraphs on which consensus has yet to be achieved.